

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:  
an LED array arranged a plurality of LEDs in a  
5 line,

a driver unit for driving said LED array,  
a detection unit for detecting failure of said  
LEDs in each of LED blocks produced by dividing said  
LED array; and

10 a control unit for prohibiting image reading  
operation if said detection unit has detected failure  
of LEDs in two neighboring LED blocks.

2. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,  
15 wherein said control unit prohibits image reading  
operation if the LED block adjacent to a block where  
the detection unit has detected any faulty LEDs has  
any faulty LEDs while permits image reading operation  
unless the LED block adjacent to a block where the  
20 detection unit has detected any faulty LEDs has any  
faulty LEDs.

3. The image reading apparatus according to claim 2,  
further comprising a failure number detection unit for  
25 detecting the number of faulty LEDs in each LED block,  
wherein said control unit prohibits image reading  
operation if the failure number detection unit has

detected more than a predetermined number of faulty LEDs in an LED block.

4. The image reading apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a display unit for displaying an LED-array failure warning thereon when image reading operation is prohibited by said control unit.

5. A control method for an image reading apparatus equipped with an LED array arranged a plurality of LEDs in a line and a driver unit for driving said LED array, comprising the steps of:

detecting failure of said LEDs in each of LED blocks produced by dividing said LED array;

confirming whether the LED block adjacent to the LED block where any failure has been detected is faulty or not; and

prohibiting image reading operation if it is confirmed at the confirming step that each of two neighboring LED blocks has any faulty LEDs.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein in the prohibiting step image reading operation is prohibited if the LED block adjacent to a block where any faulty LEDs have been found in the detecting step has any faulty LEDs while image reading operation is permitted unless the LED block adjacent to a block where any

faulty LEDs have been found in the detecting step has any faulty LEDs.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

detecting the number of faulty LEDs in each LED block, wherein in the prohibiting step image reading operation is prohibited if more than a predetermined number of faulty LEDs are found in an LED block in the detecting step.

8. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of:

displaying an LED-array failure warning when image reading is prohibited.

9. An image reading apparatus comprising:

an LED array arranged a plurality of LEDs in a line,

a driver unit for driving said LED array,  
a detection unit for detecting failure of said LEDs; and

a control unit for prohibiting image reading operation if said detection unit has detected a predetermined number or more of faulty LEDs in the vicinity thereof.

10. The image reading apparatus according to claim 9,  
wherein said control unit prohibits image reading  
operation if the detection unit has detected a  
predetermined number or more of faulty LEDs in the  
vicinity thereof while permits image reading operation  
unless the detection unit has detected a predetermined  
number or more of faulty LEDs in the vicinity thereof.

11. The image reading apparatus according to claim 10,  
further comprising a display unit for displaying an  
LED-array failure warning thereon when image reading  
is prohibited by said control unit.

12. A control method for an image reading apparatus  
equipped with an LED array arranged a plurality of  
LEDs in a line and a driver unit for driving said LED  
array, comprising the steps of:

detecting failure of said LEDs;

confirming whether any LED adjacent to a faulty  
LED is faulty or not; and

prohibiting image reading operation if two LEDs  
in the vicinity thereof are faulty.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein in the  
prohibiting step image reading operation is prohibited  
if a predetermined number or more of faulty LEDs are  
found in the vicinity thereof while image reading

operation is permitted unless a predetermined number or more of faulty LEDs are found in the vicinity thereof.

- 5     14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:

         displaying an LED-array failure warning when image reading operation is prohibited.